Amendments t the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No amendments are made to the claims in this paper. The claims are listed here for the Examiner's convenience.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 54 comprising at least one stent segment in combination with one or more additional stent segments.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 20 wherein said one or more additional segments are axially aligned with one another.

23. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 20 wherein said one or more additional segments are secured to one another by connecting means connecting at least some of the apices of hoops at mating ends of said stent and said additional segments.

24. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 20 wherein adjacent hoops are of the same diameter.

25. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 20 wherein adjacent hoops are of a different diameter.

26. (Withdrawn) A stent as recited in claim 22 wherein said axially aligned segments are connected to one another by a tubular fabric element.

27. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 20 wherein a first additional segment is axially parallel to, but non-common co-axial with, said stent segment.

28. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 27 further comprising a second additional segment axially parallel to said stent segment, but non-co-axial with either said stent segment or said first additional stent segment.

29. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 28 wherein at least one of said first and second additional stent segments is of frustoconical shape and is further combined

with a third an additional stent segment, one end of which includes a mating frustoconical shape.

30. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 29, wherein said mating frustoconical stent segments are adapted to be separately placed in a bifurcated artery and then, by expansion of one of said frustoconical stent segments, secured to one another.

31. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said hoops are formed of a single continuous wire.

32. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is a suture.

33. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 32 wherein said suture is a tied loop of thermoplastic material.

34. (Withdrawn) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is a suture.

35. (Withdrawn) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is a staple.

36. (Withdrawn) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is wire twisted into loop.

37. (Withdrawn) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 36 wherein said wire is nitinol.

38. (Withdrawn) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said securing means is bead of thermoplastic material.

39. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein each longitudinal end of the stent is substantially perpendicular square to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

40. (Withdrawn) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 wherein said stent is at least partially covered in fabric.

41. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 31 wherein said wire is nitinol.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 54 further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed on at least one end of the stent.

44. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 43 wherein said radiopaque marker comprises a radiopaque element attached to one end of said stent.

45. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 44 wherein said element is a platinum wire.

46. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 44 wherein said element is a gold wire.

47. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 43 wherein said radiopaque marker comprises a radiopaque tube disposed around a part of said stent.

48. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 47 wherein said tube is platinum.

49. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent as claimed in claim 47 wherein said tube is gold.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) A stent comprising:

a plurality of hoops aligned along a common axis, each of said hoops oriented in a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the stent, and each of said hoops

including a plurality of elongate elements joined to one another and forming apices that point in a direction along the longitudinal axis of the stent; and

means for securing an apex of one hoop to a juxtaposed apex of a neighboring hoop.

55. (Previously Presented) A stent as recited in claim 20 wherein at least one of said additional stent segments comprises:

a plurality of hoops aligned along a common axis, each of said hoops oriented in a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the additional stent segment, and each of said hoops including a plurality of elongate elements joined to one another and forming apices that point in a direction along the longitudinal axis of the additional stent segment; and

means for securing an apex of one hoop to a juxtaposed apex of a neighboring hoop.

56. (Previously Presented) A stent comprising a tubular member having a plurality of hoops aligned adjacent one another along the longitudinal axis of said tubular member, each of said hoops comprising a plurality of elongate elements, with pairs of said elongate elements meeting one another and forming vertices axially pointing in a direction along the longitudinal axis of the stent, wherein at least some of said vertices axially abut and are individually connected to oppositely pointed vertices of elongate elements of an adjacent hoop, wherein the vertices of each hoop pointed in the axial direction lie in a common plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tubular member.

57. (Previously Presented) A stent according to claim 56, wherein at least one elongate element in each hoop is a continuation of an elongate element of an adjacent hoop.

58. (Withdrawn) A method of reinforcing a body vessel using a tubular sheath disposed between an entry location in a body and an implantation location, said method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a stent as recited in claim 56;

b. compressing the stent into its compressed configuration;

c. inserting the compressed stent into the tubular sheath;

d. delivering the compressed stent through the tubular sheath to the implantation location; and

e. withdrawing the sheath while holding the stent at the implantation location within the vessel and expanding the stent within the implantation location as the sheath is withdrawn by permitting the self-expandable stent, as the constraint of the sheath is removed to return to said expanded configuration;

whereby the stent is securely disposed in the implanted state against said body vessel.

59. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58, wherein said stent is comprised of a shape memory material.

60. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 59, wherein said shape memory material is nitinol and step (b) is performed at low temperature.

61. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58, wherein at least one elongate element in each hoop is a continuation of an elongate element of an adjacent hoop.

62. (Withdrawn) A prosthesis for placement in a body lumen comprising a tubular graft supported and adapted to be retained in said lumen by a stent as recited in claim 56.